



APPROVED 2-11-02

KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2003

EXCHANGE BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Shauna Cheney (awaiting County Executive appointment), Alice Howell, Mindy Meyring, Howard Miller, Helen Nilon (awaiting County Executive appointment), Jim Nobles (awaiting County Executive appointment), Eleanor Owen, Debra Roszkowski, Ron Sterling, Clifford Thurston, Gwendolyn Williams

Members Absent: Jack Fuller (excused), Freda Monroe (excused)

Guests Present: Frank Jose (NAMI-Greater Seattle)

Staff Present: Sherry Hamilton, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

Board Chair Howard Miller convened the meeting of the King County Mental Health Advisory Board at 4:05 p.m.

I. WELCOME

Board Chair Howard Miller made a brief welcome remark.

II. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 10, 2002 MINUTES

Ron Sterling made a motion, which was seconded by Alice Howell, to accept the December 10, 2002 minutes as submitted. The motion passed and was approved unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Status of NAMI-Washington

Board Chair Howard Miller asked Frank Jose, NAMI-Greater Seattle Executive Director, to update the board on the latest development on the status of NAMI-

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Washington. Frank handed out the latest issue of the "Spotlight", a NAMI-WAMI Newsletter and read a portion of the news from NAMI Washington on page 4 of the newsletter. It states "On December 13, 2002, a national NAMI Hearings Panel made up of members of the national NAMI Board of Directors, requested the resignations of the NAMI Washington Board of Directors Executive Committee. The Panel determined this action was necessary for the best interests of NAMI (pertains to the state organization, **not** NAMI-Greater Seattle) and its members. With the dissolution of the NAMI Washington Board Executive Committee, the Hearings Panel transferred the NAMI State Charter to a NAMI Washington Operating Panel chaired by Arlene Engel, NAMI Clallam County. The NAMI State Board was then placed in an advisory role to the Operating Panel. The Operating Panel is charged to re-establish NAMI Washington as a coordinator of NAMI activities in the State of Washington. National NAMI has asked that this be accomplished in 90 days, beginning January 1, 2003."

Howard Miller inquired about the impact of this move on statewide affiliates. Frank Jose responded that it would depend on the outcome of the recommendations of the Operating Panel. These recommendations will be put up for a vote to the entire membership statewide. There is a plan to pull the NAMI-Washington Charter if the Operation Panel will not succeed.

NAMI Washington is short of \$26,000 due to a theft committed by one of its employees. A positive note: Mental Health Division (MHD) in Olympia will continue to financially back NAMI-Washington in spite of the latest incident. MHD is giving \$90,000 to NAMI from block grant money.

NAMI-Washington Board meeting will be held on January 19, 2003 at the Health Department in Lacey, as previously scheduled. This meeting is open to the public. Call 1-800-877-2649 for more details about this meeting.

NAMI Facts will be sent out to the board for their information, in addition to periodic update on the progress of the NAMI-Washington case.

Howard Miller commended Frank Jose's write-up on the Governor's Budget, which he called "Inhumane Budget." The article is featured in the latest issue of "Spotlight" on page 3. Howard also briefly shared an article from AARP Bulletin about the impact of a Medicaid cut to 13 million elderly.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee

The Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 22nd to discuss the Governor's budget and the status of legislative bills and other related issues.

Speaking of legislative bills, Eleanor Owen expressed concerns about hesitation from one lawmaker over the composition of the proposed commission on Representative Cody's bill on prescription drugs. Since then, he has dropped his own bill into the hopper which differs markedly from Cody's bill. Eleanor will provide the board the latest version of this bill by email.

The Parity bill is moving forward and seeking additional sponsors.

Eleanor also brought up the issue related to a bill that raises the age of consent for commitment from 13 to 16. Some Health Professionals feel that a 13-year-old still needs guidance from an adult. Everyone agreed that this is a complex issue. Jean Robertson stated that Charles Huffine, a Division staff, has written a position paper that addresses this issue, which the board might find helpful to read. Frank Jose of NAMI-Greater Seattle said that Charles Huffine will be presenting this youth issue at one of their meetings and encouraged the board to attend if interested.

There is no Human Service Day this year, instead it will be a Children's Day.

B. Nominations Update

Rhoda Naguit reported that Helen Nilon, Shauna Cheney, and James Nobles' appointment papers are still pending at the King County Executive's office. She will follow up on the status of these appointments before the end of this week.

Board Chair Howard Miller asked for a volunteer to replace Ray Gattavara in the Nominating Committee. He and Freda Monroe are the other members of the committee.

C. Quality Council

The Quality Council met last December 11, 2002. The main focus of the meeting was on case management turnover follow-up issues. The Council will decide on the recommendations regarding case management next meeting, which falls on Monday, January 27th at 3:30pm.

V. STAFF REPORT

Jean Robertson gave an update report on the following:

A. PHASE OUT OF UBH

The Division officially took over the business functions of United Behavioral Health (UBH) on January 1, 2003. The Division retained the phone number 1-800-790-8049. This is the best number for reaching clinical and client services staff.

B. Summit Update

The Mental Health Summit took place on January 6th. The meeting did not turn out as most RSNs expected. The meeting focused on reviewing language of the statute 71.24 and a lengthy discussion on the definitions of who we serve. The group agreed that this is the best language with the caveat that using mental disorder rather than mental illness continues to cast Mental Health services as the safety net for other systems. There was an attempt by the group to narrow the door to whom we serve via minimum eligibility and benefits definitions.

Another focus of discussion at the meeting was the Governor's budget. The group also discussed the legislative strategy that stakeholders would support. Currently, the budget underfunds caseload growth by \$40 million. If 1115b waiver is approved, further cuts will result. The Division has not drafted a response on possible approval of 1115b waiver.

The group agreed to send the message to the legislators that this is the third year in a row that Mental Health is taking cuts while other departments and services are looking at their first hit. The loss of \$900,000 for King County Mentally Ill Offender-CTP project is appalling considering the report to the legislature shows that there was a 50% reduction in recidivism for those in the project.

The second Stakeholders meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, January 22nd to discuss the "candidates list", those contract requirements that are not State or Federal requirements and will be looking at minimum modality set to potentially require more peer to peer services in place of traditional services. Discussions on this issue left a big question unanswered at the end of the summit.

C. County Budget

Additional funding is available for the Division due to savings from the closure of Cedar Hills Addiction Treatment facility (CHAT) and North Rehabilitation Facility (NRF). Funds are targeted for Co-occurring Disorders (COD) treatment projects and drug and mental health court services. This includes the \$1 million for drug court and mental health court; \$800,000 for COD tier project, and \$400,000 for housing voucher program. The Division will put these out for Request for Proposal (RFP) soon.

D. Division Manager's Activities

Amnon Shoenfeld, Division Manager, and Terry Mark, Department Deputy Director, are in Olympia today meeting with as many legislators as possible. They have already met with some legislators prior to the start of the legislative session. To date, they have arranged 26 meetings with legislators. Their mission is to take our message to the lawmakers and to ensure that they understand the issues facing us. So far, they have received positive responses from the legislators.

Frank Jose asked that RSN tracks the issue of funding from healthcare cut which would be allocated to health clinics.

Board Chair Howard Miller asked to provide board members with fact sheets used by Division staff in meeting with legislators to ensure a unified dissemination of information (see attached).

E. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Compliance Activities

The HIPAA Privacy Rule will go into effect April 14, 2003. This standardizes requirements nationwide. Jean recommended doing an overview of HIPAA regulations and its impact on MH system at the next month's board meeting.

VI. LIAISON REPORT

- **Freda Monroe: Mental Health Court/Asian Counseling & Referral Service**

Not present to make a report.

- **Jack Fuller: Community Psychiatric Clinic**

Not present to make a report.

- **Alice Howell: Highline-W. Seattle Mental Health/Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation**

The Special Care Unit of Highline-West Seattle Mental Health will be closed. The County has been helpful in disseminating public notice about this closure. Alice had no report on Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation (VCCC). The next meeting is next Thursday.

- **Howard Miller: Downtown Emergency Service Center**

There was no board meeting in December. He will be attending the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 21st. At the last board meeting, they dealt with budget shortfall and ways to solve it. A full report on this issue will be made at next week's board meeting.

- **Ron Sterling: Chronic Populations Action Council**

No report to make due to unavailability to attend daytime meetings. Ron asked to be relieved from this liaison assignment because he could no longer attend daytime meetings due to workload and work schedule.

Sherry Hamilton reported that there were three presentations given at the last meeting of the Chronic Populations Action Council. The first presenter was Lorri Cox, City of Seattle Senior Court Specialist. She talked about additional new service to be provided at the Seattle Justice Center Court Resource Center by a number of government entities, effective January 21, 2003. The Center is located at 600-5th Avenue on the 2nd floor. Donald Lachman gave the second presentation about excise tax on alcohol. The recommended excise tax will be a dedicated fund. The third presentation was about reducing incarceration for certain offenses to six months. Savings from this will be used for alcohol/drug prevention and treatment services

- **Clifford Thurston: Community House**

No report at this time.

- **Helen Nilon: Seattle Mental Health**

Helen Nilon submitted a written report due to loss of speaking voice. Board Chair Howard Miller read the report in her behalf. The highlights of the report include:

- Eastside - The closure of the Supported Living Facility (SLF)0 and that all residents were successfully placed in several locations, including Avondale, Chartley House in South King county, SMH Supervised housing or in an apartment complex. As of today, Avondale clients have transferred to the Stillwater Facility, which will now be a long-term rehabilitative. Avondale will be converted to either a DCS Geriatric or single transitional residence for dual diagnosed clients.
- Metro and South and East - The staffing transitions have been completed system-wide. Several of those who were laid off were able to find other positions within the agency.
- There has been a significant increase or demand for children intensive services in East as well as South King County.

VII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

A. Change of Board Meeting Time

Board Chair Howard Miller tabled this item for further discussion at the next board meeting. He also asked the board to write down their time preference and the reasons for their choice and email it to board members.

B. OTHER CONCERNS

- Mental Health Parity: For more information about this issue go to:
<http://www.mentalhealthparity.com>
- Board Liaison Assignment: There is a need to update Board's Liaison assignment.
- Discussion on a recent killing of a pregnant wife by her psychotic husband in Edmonds. The board agreed there is a need to educate the general public about mental illnesses. Mindy Meyring has a contact person at The Seattle Times who is interested in doing a series on mental illness. In addition to Seattle Times, it was suggested to utilize the Seattle Weekly, or Stranger for wider exposure. Alice Howell also recommended bringing this issue to the Quality Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Prepared by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Attested by:



Howard Miller
Board Chairman